

Amendments to Claims:

1. (Presently amended) Device for exposing a peripheral area of a film circuit board by transporting the film circuit board in a transport direction and irradiating a resist on a peripheral area of the film circuit board with exposure light from a light irradiation means, the device comprising:

means for determining the location of an edge of the film circuit board including an optical detector having a light projection section for transmitting a sensor light to the film circuit board and a light receiving part for receiving the sensor light from said light projection section;

a controller for moving the film circuit board so that the resist on the peripheral area of the film circuit board is irradiated with exposure light, moving of the film circuit board being based upon data received from said means for determining;

gas discharge means for discharging a gas on the peripheral area in a manner for flattening and maintaining said film circuit board planar, said gas being discharged on the peripheral area as the peripheral area is irradiated with exposure light; and

a carrier for supporting the film circuit board, said carrier being composed of a material adapted to transmit sensor light to a bottom surface of the peripheral area.

2. (Original) Device for exposure of a peripheral area of a film circuit board as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gas discharge means is a slot-shaped nozzle with lengthwise sides which are located parallel to a longitudinal side of the film circuit board.

3. (Original) Device for exposure of a peripheral area of a film circuit board as claimed in claim 2, wherein said slot-shaped nozzle is arranged such that the gas strikes the peripheral area of the film circuit board obliquely and the gas flows from inside of the peripheral area to an outer edge of the film circuit board.

4. (Presently amended) Device for exposing a peripheral area of a film circuit board by transporting the film circuit board in a transport direction and irradiating a resist in a

peripheral area of the film circuit board with exposure light from a light irradiation means, the device comprising:

means for determining the location of an edge of the film circuit board including an optical detector having a light projection section for transmitting a sensor light to the film circuit board and a light receiving part for receiving the sensor light from said light projection section;

a controller for moving the film circuit board so that the resist on the peripheral area of the film circuit board is irradiated with exposure light, moving of the film circuit board being based upon data received from said means for determining;

gas discharge means for discharging a gas on the peripheral area in a manner for flattening and maintaining said film circuit board planar, said gas being discharged on the peripheral area as the peripheral area is irradiated with exposure light; and

a carrier for supporting the film circuit board, said carrier being composed of a material adapted to reflect sensor light in the peripheral area.

5. (Original) Device for exposure of a peripheral area of a film circuit board as claimed in claim 4, wherein the gas discharge means is a slot-shaped nozzle with longitudinal sides which are located parallel to a longitudinal side of the film circuit board.

6. (Original) Device for exposure of a peripheral area of a film circuit board as claimed in claim 5, wherein the slot-shaped nozzle is arranged such that gas strikes the peripheral area of the film circuit board obliquely and the gas flows from inside of the peripheral area to an outer edge of the film circuit board.